GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2375
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2000
OILSEEDS AND OIL DEVELOPMENT FUND
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have allocated any funds under the Oilseeds and Oil Development Fund;

(b) if so, whether there are proposals to use part of the import duties from imported oil to enhance productivity of oilseeds;

(c) if not, the manner in which the Government prepare to deal with the situation of domestic glut and vast quantities of cheap imports;

(d) whether any study have been done to find a solution to this problem; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD Y. NAIK)

(a) As such there is no separate oil seeds and Oil Development Fund.However, a Centrally Sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) is under implementation for thedevelopment of Oilseeds in the country. An amount of Rs.585 crore has been allocated for the implementation of this scheme during the entire period of Ninth Five Year Plan.

(b) Presently there is no proposal to use part of the import duties on edible oils to enhance productivity of oilseeds in the country.

(c) There is a shortage of oilseeds production in the country to meet the domestic demand of edible oil thus necessitating the import of edible oil to meet the domestic demand. Due to liberalised policy for import of edible oil and keeping it under OGL there is huge import of edible oil which is cheaper than the edible oil produced indigenously. The import of cheap edible oil is affecting the oilseed growers. In a bid to provide protection to farmers and negate the impact of low international prices the Government has increased the import duties by 10-30% on all crude and refined edible oils with effect from 21.11.2000.

(d) & (e) In view of reply given in part (c) above, the Question does not arise.